



**Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 1105**

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**Hearing Date:** February 11, 2002

**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications

**Introducer(s):** (Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, Connealy)

**Title:** Provide for specialty license plates

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

8 Yes                      Senators Jones, Baker, Robak, Dw. Pedersen, Byars, Hudkins,  
Brown and Bromm

No

Present, not voting

Absent

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**Proponents:**

Scott Berryman

John Hilgert

Mark Brohman

Jeanine Lackey

Dion Neumiller

Walter A. Ebeler

Gary Chalupa

**Representing:**

Transportation & Telecommunications  
Committee

Director of Veteran's Affairs

NE Game & Parks Commission

NE Chapter, The Wildlife Society

NE State Volunteer Firefighter's Association

NE State Volunteer Firefighter's Association

County Veterans Service Officers Association of  
Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

The bill uses the Nebraska Spirit Plate structure for specialty license plates to authorize Military plates, Firefighter plates, and Game & Parks plates.

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New language authorizes the production of plates when there are at least 500 prepaid applications within two years, for a particular plate type.

The bill instructs the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to design Military, Firefighter, and Game & Parks plates in conjunction with the respective associated state agencies. The plates can be of two types: sequentially numbered, or personalized message plates.

Any resident may apply for the new plate with an issuance (and renewal) price of \$70; \$30 dollars will go to the Motor Vehicle Cash Fund, \$40 will go to the respective state cash fund (Veteran Cemetery Maintenance Fund, State Fire Marshal Cash Fund, and the Nongame and Endangered Species Fund). An assurance is made that if the production cost of these specialty plates exceeds that of regular plates, the difference shall be paid from the \$40 allotment to the beneficiary fund.

Finally, the bill states that characters in *any* personalized plate in Nebraska shall not denote a governmental agency; shall not use (in forward or reverse order) any sexual connotation, a term of vulgarity, contempt, prejudice, hostility, insult or racial or ethnic degradation, a swear word or term that is offensive in any language.

#### **Explanation of amendments, if any: AM 2916**

The amendment adds a fourth style of license plate for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) in the same manner as the other three plates, with funding to support the Nebraska Emergency Medical System Operation Fund.

The bill expands the Military plate section to include up to 14 subgroups to be identified in the first year, and two more in subsequent years. Each subgroup would have a different plate.

The amendment deviates from the Husker Spirit Plate template in the original bill with regard to pricing. For all four plates, in both issuance and renewal, a message plate will be \$40 with \$30 going to the DMV cash fund and \$10 to the beneficiary fund. For all four plates, in both issuance and renewal, a numbered plate will be \$15 with \$5 going to the DMV cash fund and \$10 to the beneficiary fund.

The amendment contains the contents of LB 1238 from 2002. That bill addresses handicap license plates. The bill would make issuance of the plates for persons that have permanent handicaps, and require proof of such a disability prior to issuance and renewal of handicap plates.

The amendment allows for non-residents to purchase specialty plates.

Finally, the amendment creates a better repository for funds from the firefighter plate, namely the Firefighter Response Cash Fund. The fund shall be used for training purposes.

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**Senator Curt Bromm, Chairperson**